BUILDING DIVISION	PLAN CHECK NOTE

From: Building Plan Check

PCN #6
Previous Version: 12-10-02
Revised Date: 4-28-2008

Subject: Use Of Computer Software in Analysis and Design of Structures

Code reference:
2007 California Building Code

Purpose:
To provide direction to engineers regarding the use of computer software.

Findings:
Use of computer software is acceptable in performing structural calculations if one on the requirements listed below is satisfied:

The program being used is software, which has a long history of use and has been extensively utilized by the design professional (i.e. RISA, ETABS, ENERCALC, RAMSTEEL, etc.):
In this case only the input and output should be verified thoroughly (no independent verification of the program is required). In case of complex models and/or dynamic analysis a disk containing the input data will be required to be provided along with the printed data.

The program is developed in-house by a design office with no established track record of use in the design community:
Independent verification for sample calculations shall be required. Such calculations may be performed either manually or with another software acceptable to the reviewer.